

R E M A R K S

The allowance of claims 1, 3, 8-10, and 14 is noted with appreciation.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 12 and 13 were "withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim". It was noted that applicant timely traversed the election requirement in Paper No. 4.

Reconsideration is requested. Claims 12 and 13 are dependent upon claim 10, which depends from claim 1. Since both claims 1 and 10 are now allowed, it appears that claims 12 and 13 are now dependent upon an allowed generic claim. Accordingly, the previous restriction requirement of claims 12 and 13 should be withdrawn and that claims 12 and 13 are now allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph,

" . . . as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention."

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The Examiner has stated that there was no basis for a single catch being disengageable from both recesses.

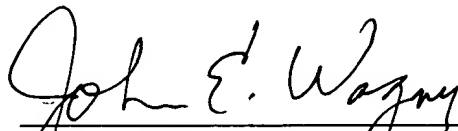
Claim 15 was also rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, the Examiner stating:

"The passage 'to disengage said catch from said recesses' is misdescriptive since a catch does not engage both recesses and it is unclear which catch applicant is referring to."

Claim 15 has been amended to recite, "to disengage said catches from said recesses" This is believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection and claim 15 should now again be allowable.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (thrice amended) A two-part plastic buckle comprising:

a female part including a belt attachment loop, an opening at the opposite end from said belt attachment loop, a front face including an aperture completely surrounded by said front face, a rear face and a pair of edges, each of said edges including a recess communicating with said opening:

a male part including a belt attachment loop and a pair of prongs dimensioned to enter the opening of said female part, each of said pair of prongs including a catch engaging one of said recesses to secure said male and female parts together, said prongs being adapted to flex under finger pressure to disengage said ~~catch~~ catches from said recesses to release said male and female parts; and a cantilevered tongue located between said prongs;

said cantilevered tongue further including a member normally engaging said prongs when said prongs are positioned to secure the male and female parts together to prevent said prongs from releasing said male and female parts; and

a button integrally formed with said cantilevered tongue and normally positioned in said aperture for disengaging said prong engaging member from said prongs.